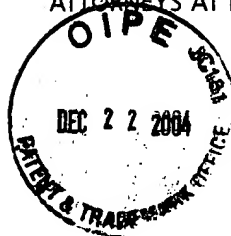


**Sterne Kessler
Goldstein Fox**
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Robert Greene Sterne
Edward J. Kessler
Jorge A. Goldstein
David K.S. Cornwell
Robert W. Esmond
Tracy-Gene G. Durkin
Michele A. Cimbala
Michael B. Ray
Robert E. Sokohl
Eric K. Steffe
Michael Q. Lee
Steven R. Ludwig
John M. Covert
Linda E. Alcorn
Robert C. Millonig
Lawrence B. Bugaisky
Donald J. Featherstone
Michael V. Messinger

Judith U. Kim
Timothy J. Shea, Jr.
Patrick E. Garrett
Jeffrey T. Helvey
Heidi L. Kraus
Albert L. Ferro
Donald R. Banowitz
Peter A. Jackman
Teresa U. Medler
Jeffrey S. Weaver
Kendrick P. Patterson
Vincent L. Capuano
Eldora Ellison Floyd
Thomas C. Fiala
Brian J. Del Buono
Virgil Lee Beaton
Theodore A. Wood
Elizabeth J. Haanes

Joseph S. Ostroff
Frank R. Cottingham
Christine M. Uhulier
Rae Lynn P. Guest
George S. Bardmesser
Daniel A. Klein
Jason D. Eisenberg
Michael D. Specht
Andrea J. Kamage
Tracy L. Muller
Jon E. Wright
LuAnne M. DeSantis
Ann E. Summerfield
Aric W. Ledford
Helene C. Carlson
Timothy A. Doyle
Gaby L. Longworth
Lori A. Gordon

Nicole D. Dretar
Ted J. Ebersole
Jyoti C. Iyer
Laura A. Vogel
Michael J. Mancuso

Registered Patent Agents*
Karen R. Markowicz
Nancy J. Leith
Matthew J. Dowd
Aaron L. Schwartz
Katrina Yujian Pei Quach
Bryan L. Skelton
Robert A. Schwartzman
Teresa A. Colella
Jeffrey S. Lundgren
Victoria S. Rutherford
Michelle K. Holoubek

Robert H. DeSelms
Simon J. Elliott
Julie A. Heider
Mita Mukherjee
Scott M. Woodhouse
Michael G. Penn
Christopher J. Walsh

Of Counsel
Kenneth C. Bass III
Evan R. Smith
Marvin C. Guthrie

*Admitted only in Maryland
*Admitted only in Virginia
*Practice Limited to
Federal Agencies

December 22, 2004

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

(202) 772-8643

INTERNET ADDRESS:

AFERRO@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/717,115; Filed: November 22, 2000
For: **Axle Driving Apparatus**
Inventors: OKADA *et al.*
Our Ref: 0666.023000O/TGD/ALF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Petition for Extension of Time (PTO/SB/22);
2. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) for \$2,160.00 to cover the 5 month extension of time fee;
3. Reply to Requirement for Election of Species; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
December 22, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ALF', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Albert L. Ferro
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,679

ALF/bls
Enclosures

345570_1.DOC